

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for licensing external processes on a server comprising the steps of:

generating an electronic license, wherein the electronic license is generated by formatting a customer order for a software product in accordance with a licensing schema and the formatted electronic license to include that includes a plurality of software command directives embedded within the formatted electronic license to indicate whether a particular software command directive associated with a particular feature of the software product is to be accepted for registration or rejected for registration, therein for at least one of accepting and rejecting registration, by one or more external processes or products having the software commands, and wherein each software command directive includes a command name associated with a particular software command or operation of the software product one of the plurality of software commands and an inclusion or exclusion identifier for indicating the acceptance or rejection of [[the]] registration for that particular software command or operation within the software product, and wherein at least one software command for the software product is associated with the exclusion identifier; and

registering selective ones of the software commands in response to based upon the software command directives and their inclusion and exclusion identifiers; and

executing the registered commands.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of includes directing the software product one or more external processes to only use a set of licensed hardware resources, the set of licensed hardware resources also being defined by one or more fields in the electronic license.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade defining a set of additional commands for registration that are not part of software commands registered in conjunction with one or more prior licenses.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade describing additional hardware resources licensed for use by the software product ~~one or more external processes~~ that are not part of hardware resources licensed for use by prior licenses.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade describing additional hardware resources licensed for use by the software product ~~one or more external processes~~ that add further capabilities to hardware resources licensed for use by prior licenses.

20. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising either one of (a) installing the electronic license in the server prior to shipment of the server to an end-user of the server and (b) providing the electronic license to the end-user on a removable media for installation in the server after the shipment of the server to the end-user.

21. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising installing the electronic license in the server in a over-the-wire process including (a) digitally signing the electronic license by a vendor, (b) transmitting the digitally signed electronic license over a communications network from the vendor to the server, (c) validating the digitally signed electronic license by the server and (d) installing the validated electronic license in the server.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium including program instructions executing on a computer for licensing external processes on a server, the program instructions performing the steps of:

generating an electronic license by formatting a customer order for a software product in accordance with a schema for the electronic license, and wherein the electronic license ~~[[that]]~~ identifies two or more software commands, which are features of the software product, for registration with the ~~for a~~ software product, and wherein the electronic license includes for each software command a string identifying a command name for that particular software command ~~one of the software commands~~ and ~~at least one of~~ an inclusion or an ~~[[and]]~~ exclusion identifier, and wherein the string is embedded and included within the electronic license;

registering, with an interface, a particular one of the identified software commands having the inclusion identifier and not permitting registration of another particular one of the identified software commands having the exclusion identifier; ~~which have the inclusion identifier in the electronic license;~~ and

executing, with a command processor, just the identified and registered software command ~~commands~~.